

Latent Print Unit

The Alabama Bureau of Investigation Latent Print Unit is a single-service laboratory, employing Certified Latent Print Examiners, providing support for law-enforcement agencies in latent print related investigations.

Kind of Work

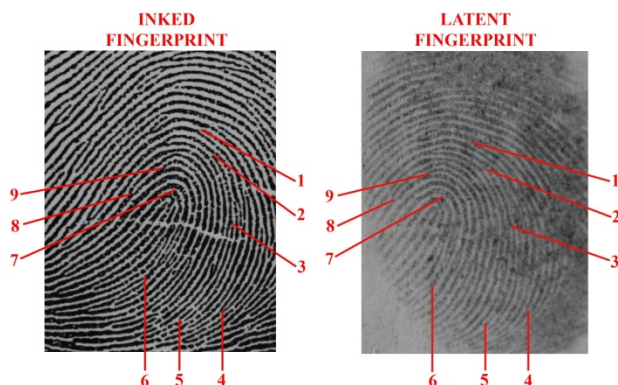
Conduct thorough physical and chemical analyses in the development of latent prints at crime scenes, as well as from evidence submitted by law enforcement agencies.

Use of the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) on state, as well as federal levels to search a large database of fingerprint images and maintain an unsolved latent database.

Systematic comparisons of latent fingerprints, palmprints, and footprints.

Testify as an expert witness in legal proceedings.

Field training in all aspects of latent prints and fingerprinting techniques.



Contact us:

(334) 353-4320

Latent Print Unit
PO Box 1511
Montgomery, AL 36102-1511

or

Latent Print Unit
834 Adams Ave
Montgomery, AL 36104

Related Links:

[Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences \(ADFS\)](#)
[International Association for Identification](#)

Processing Evidence

Responsibility of the Crime Scene Investigator in Collection of Fingerprints

- ✓ Locate, develop, and preserve latent prints
- ✓ Make a thorough search of all surface areas in and around the scene of the crime suspected of containing latent prints.
- ✓ Obtain inked prints of elimination individuals and suspects.
- ✓ Maintain fingerprint evidence in a legal manner and maintain proper chain of custody.

Conducting Crime Scene Search for Latent Prints

- ✓ All persons conducting a crime scene search should wear GLOVES.



- ✓ Sketch and photograph the scene before collecting any evidence.
- ✓ Search
- ✓ Have proper equipment and supplies
- ✓ Photograph using a standard ruler (inches, not cm or mm) and then collect small items that are to be processed in the laboratory – being careful to handle in a way as not to destroy prints.
- ✓ Each item collected in different locations must be placed in separate containers and these packages or containers must be marked as to their location.
- ✓ Collect questionable evidence
- ✓ Maintain custody of evidence – Have a written record each time evidence changes hands.

EVIDENCE	
Submitting Agency _____	
Date Collected _____	Time _____
Item # _____	Case # _____
Collected By _____	
Description of Evidence _____	
Location Where Collected _____	
Type of Offense _____	
CHAIN OF CUSTODY	
Rec. From _____	By _____
Date _____	Time _____
Rec. From _____	By _____
Date _____	Time _____
Rec. From _____	By _____
Date _____	Time _____

- ✓ Conduct latent print examination.
- ✓ Large items that cannot be transported to the laboratory must be processed at the scene.
- ✓ All surfaces that have the potential of retaining latent prints and are suspected of containing suspect prints should be examined.
- ✓ Start examination with the area of most importance, i.e., point of entry, area of struggle, etc.
- ✓ Mark and identify fingerprint lifts. After a latent has been developed, lifted, and placed on a card, it is necessary that the card be properly identified with the following information:
 - ✎ Date and time the lift was made
 - ✎ Exact place of the lift and the type of object. Sometimes drawing a simple sketch of the object is helpful.
 - ✎ Indicate direction print came off the object (may be done with an arrow).
 - ✎ Processor's name or initials.
 - ✎ Agency case number.
 - ✎ Numbering lifts and maintaining separate list with the corresponding lift number may be helpful in recording the necessary lift information

Submitting Evidence

- ➔ If submitting a “property crimes” case, please read [this](#).
- ➔ Non-porous items (guns, ammunition, bottles, cans, etc.) should be placed in paper bags or boxes – DO NOT WRAP



- ➔ Porous items collected from the same area can be placed together in a paper bag or envelope.
- ➔ Packages containing evidence should be sealed and marked with initials of the evidence investigator.
- ➔ Elimination finger and palm prints should be obtained and submitted along with the evidence.
- ➔ If mailing evidence to the laboratory – All sealed evidence packages should be placed in a master envelope or box, which is clearly marked “Evidence”.



➔ Complete [Fingerprint Examination Request Form](#):

- ✓ Leave field #10 blank
- ✓ Mark field #11 OR #12 as appropriate

➔ Send to:

Latent Print Unit
PO Box 1511
Montgomery, AL 36102-1511

or

Latent Print Unit
834 Adams Ave
Montgomery, AL 36104



The Alabama Bureau of Investigation Latent Print Unit will no longer forward any items to the Department of Forensic Sciences. Submitted evidence will be returned or available for pickup. It is then the contributor's responsibility for submissions to ADFS.